

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 02756 202256Z

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, EAIR, IT
SUBJ: LOCKHEED SCANDAL STATUS REPORT

REF: ROME 2639

1. IN PRIME MINISTER MORO'S ADDRESS OF FEBRUARY 19 TO THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES OUTLINING THE POLICIES TO BE FOLLOWED BY HIS NEW GOVERNMENT, TWO DECISIONS WERE ANNOUNCED CONCERNING THE LOCKHEED REVELATIONS. IN ADDITION, MORO LAMENTED THAT PRESIDENT LEONE HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF UNJUSTIFIED ATTACKS AND EXPRESSED HIS FULL SOLIDARITY WITH THE PRESIDENT.

2. MORO NAMED A THREE-MEMBER PANEL OF "WISEMEN" EMPOWERED TO INVESTIGATE THE ENTIRE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS RELATED TO THE PURCHASE OF "THE LOCKHEED AIRPLANES." FYI. WHILE THE TERMINOLOGY "LOCKHEED AIRPLANES" IS VERY GENERAL, IN FACT THE CONTROVERSY IS EXCLUSIVELY FOCUSED ON THE 14 C-130 HERCULES CARGO CARRIES PURCHASED BY THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE IN 1970-72. END FYI. THE PANEL MEMBERS ARE ANTONIO PAPALDO, EX-CONSTITUTIONAL COURT JUSTICE; FERDINANDO CARBONE, EX-PRESIDENT OF THE COURT OF ACCOUNTS; AND GENERAL CORRADO SAN GIORGIO, EX-COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE CARABINIERI. THE GROUP IS TO CARRY OUT AN "ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTI-
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GATION" AND TO REPORT TO THE PRIME MINISTER WITHIN THREE REPEAT

THREE MONTHS.

3. MORO ALSO STATED THAT "THE GOVERNMENT HAS FIRMLY REQUESTED THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT PROVIDE ALL INFORMATION NECESSARY TO PRECISELY ESTABLISH RESPONSIBILITY (IN THE LOCKHEED MATTER) AND TO CLEAR THE INNOCENT." FYI. IN THIS VEIN SEVERAL PAPERS REPORT THAT AMBASSADOR GAJA HAS "FINALLY BEEN INSTRUCTED TO GO UP TO THE SENATE AND ASK THE CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS WHICH HAVE NOT AS OF YET BEEN PUBLISHED. GAJA IS REPORTEDLY TO DO THIS AT 11:00 A.M. FRIDAY. END FYI.

4. ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS INTERROGATED TWO AIR FORCE GENERALS (NOW RETIRED) WHO HAD HELD KEY POSITIONS DURING THE PERIOD IN QUESTION: GENERAL DUILIO FANALI, THEN CHIEF OF STAFF, AIR FORCE, AND GENERAL GIUSEPPE GIRAUDO, THEN SECRETARY GENERAL OF AIR FORCE. THEY ARE REPORTED TO HAVE MAINTAINED THAT THE PURCHASE WAS PERFECTLY ROUTINE AND HONORABLE, SHEDDING NO NEW LIGHT ON THE MATTER.

5. ANTONIO LEFEBVRE, THE ATTORNEY INSINUATED IN MEDIA (REFTEL) TO BE A LEONE INTIMATE, AND BROTHER OF THE ALREADY INDICTED OVIDIO, IS TO BE EXAMINED TODAY. PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS HAVE INVOKED "PRESS EMBARGO" ON THE INVESTIGATIONS FOR THE NEXT WEEK THOUGH IT IS TAKEN FOR GRANTED BY EVERYONE THAT THIS EMBARGO WILL HAVE NO EFFECT AND THAT THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL WILL REMAIN IN THE HEADLINES FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT WEEK. VOLPE

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